

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00586 172010Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
TRSE-00 /100 W
-----077829 172018Z /47

P R 171940Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6264
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GY
SUBJECT: "NO CAUSE FOR ALARM"

1. GOVT-OWNED GUYANA CHRONICLE CARRIED THE FOLLOWING
ENIGMATIC ITEM ON PAGE 1 OF ITS EDITION FOR FEB. 16:
QUOTE: NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY ADVISED
THAT THE SECURITY FORCES ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN A
ROUTINE TRAINING EXERCISE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO
BE ACTIVE ALONG THE ENTIRE COAST FOR A FEW DAYS.

THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM AND ALL ARE ADVISED
TO COOPERATE WITH THE SECURITY FORCES IN THEIR EXERCISE.
UNQUOTE.

2. OVER THE LAST THREE DAYS UNITS OF THE GUYANA DEFENSE
FORCE, PEOPLE'S MILITIA, AND NATIONAL SERVICE HAVE BEEN
ENGAGED IN MANEUVERS IN AND AROUND THE GEORGETOWN AREA.

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THESE EXERCISES HAVE INCLUDED THE DEPLOYMENT OF UNITS
FOR BRIEF PERIODS IN BATTLE DRESS AROUND VARIOUS
GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND SUCH INSTALLATIONS AS THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE RADIO STATION, AND THE OVERSEAS
RADIO RELAY STATION. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN NIGHT
MANEUVERS IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY WHICH INCLUDED
THE FIRING OF SMALL ARMS AND MACHINE GUNS USING

BLANK AMMUNITION.

3. THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE INSPIRED RUMORS OF VARIOUS SORTS, THE MOST CREDIBLE ONE BEING THAT THE GOVT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF STRIKES AND PUBLIC DISORDERS FOLLOWING THE PROMISED PUBLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERDUE AUSTERITY BUDGET ON FEB. 27 AND WISHES THE SECURITY FORCES TO BE PREPARED TO COPE WITH WHATEVER PUBLIC REACTION OCCURS.

4. SO FAR THE POPULACE SEEMS AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY APATHETIC TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCES AND NORMAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN GEORGETOWN SEEMS UNAFFECTED. POLICE FORCES ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THESE EXERCISES.
BURKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 3564588
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NO CAUSE FOR ALARM
TAGS: PINT, MORG, GY
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